

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter "AAPA") in view of Sasaki (PCT application 2002-0045046, hereinafter "Sasaki").

The gasket in Sasaki is made of a liquid rubber which requires a vulcanizing operation in order to form a cross-linked structure and solidify the shape of the gasket (see paragraph 0069).

The gasket according to the present invention is made of an olefin-series elastomer compound which does not need to be vulcanized (claim 4). In addition, an adhesive is applied to the top cover in advance of the gasket molding, therefore the gasket is integrated with the top cover (claim 3).

Furthermore, the gasket according to the present invention is formed on the surface of the top cover. On the other hand, the gasket in Sasaki is formed in the groove 65 of the plate 61 (see Fig. 7), so Sasaki requires an additional process for forming the groove in the plate besides the vulcanizing process.

Therefore, according to the present invention, the manufacturing process for the gasket is very simplified.

In addition, the gasket specified by present claim 1 is prevented from being squeezed out into the inside of the hard disk unit 3 when pressure is applied to the gasket from the hard disk box body 5 at the time of attachment, and coming into contact with other components that are disposed in the inside of the hard disk unit 3 (see page 20, lines 5 to 10 of the present specification and Fig. 2).

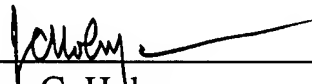
Such advantages of the gasket according to the present invention are not disclosed nor suggested in Sasaki.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Serial No.:10/527,480
Atty Docket No.: P70483US0

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,
JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC

By:  _____
John C. Holman
Reg. No. 22,769

Customer No.: 00136
400 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
Tel. (202) 638-6666
Date: June 4, 2007
JLS/kad/crj